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Organize As We Fight Army Theater Missile Warning — JTAGS

By MAJ J. Dave Price

Warfighting commanders need a reliable, responsive and autonomous capability to provide direct downlink to report on tactical ballistic missiles using Defense Support Program satellites or IR (infrared) data for early warning and alerting. Operations have demonstrated a need and Joint Tactical Ground Stations (JTAGS) testing began in 1993. JTAGS operates today as the in-theater (processing of IR data) transportable component of the Theater Event System comprised additionally of tactical detection and reporting and the U.S. Air Force Mission Control Station. The Theater Event System Concept coordinates support of all three systems, utilizing their individual strengths to offset vulnerabilities. JTAGS communication and data architecture includes Ultra High Frequency and tactical broadcast of Integrated Broadcast System — Interactive (Ballistic Missile Defense System), Integrated Broadcast System — Simplex (Ballistic Missile Defense System), Joint Tactical Information Distribution System and Joint Range Extension, TAB 37 VMF, and various voice and T-1 backup measures in the first to detect, first to report network. JTAGS provides ballistic missile warning and enhanced IR coverage 24/7, 365 days a year.

The 1st Space Company (Theater Missile Warning) has committed three of the five JTAGS command operational systems available forward to the field in Korea (Pacific Command), Stuttgart (European Command) and Qatar (Central Command). JTAGS sections will remain in operation until the fielding of the Multi Mission Mobile Processor (see M3P note) is completed around Fiscal Year 2010. JTAGS is operated by U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/U.S. Army Forces Strategic Command and the 1st Space Brigade (U.S. Army) — which is headquartered at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo. The 1st Space Company (Theater Missile Warning) command and controls three detachments and six sections with 109 officers and Soldiers deployed throughout the world. The U.S. Navy and the Naval Network and Space Operations

Center (NNSOC) supports JTAGS operations by providing 16 Naval JTAGS operators and one officer outside the Continental United States (OCONUS). U.S. Strategic Command has recently delegated operational control of JTAGS operations to the newly created Joint Functional Component Command-Space and Global Strike (S&GS) command at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif.

The 1st Space Brigade will re-task organize with four forward and one strategic reserve back for multiple purposes to include operational responsiveness to all combatant commanders with the added value of providing Soldier predictability, better permanent change of station rotations, and family quality of life. The concept of operations for JTAGS provides for one detachment headquarters and one to two sections during peace or wartime activity. Today, the three detachments headquarters are in EUCOM, PACOM and in Texas with the remaining two operational (command systems) shelters in Colorado Springs and at Fort Bliss, Texas (schoolhouse). Alpha Detachment in EUCOM provides command and control for Alpha Detachment/1st Section (A/1) in Stuttgart and Alpha Detachment/2nd Section (A/2) in CENTCOM which are mutually supporting theaters. Charlie Detachment in PACOM provides command and control over one section (C/1) at Osan Air Base in Korea. Bravo Detachment has the contingency operations mission and Individual Qualification Training (see Initial Qualification Training note) and provides command and control over the schoolhouse and two contingency sections, Bravo Detachment/2nd Section (B/2) in Texas (which has no TOE equipment) and Charlie Detachment/2nd Section (C/2) currently in Colorado Springs, Colo. All the allocations of A/2 personnel (15 Soldiers) currently reside in Colorado as well.

The problem set reflects that 100 percent of the JTAGS mission is forward in theaters supporting combatant commanders while 67 percent of the unit personnel are stationed in the continental United States (CONUS). The 1st Space Bat-

M3P

The Multi-Mission Mobile Processor (M3P) is a Pre-Planned Product Improvement (P3I) for the Army JTAGS but delivery has been moved to FY 2010 in order to incorporate operational requirements not planned for in a DSP capable M3P system. The M3P system is a ground based SBIRS (Space based infrared satellite) system that is designed to provide Direct Downlink of the SBIRS constellation (with HEO/GEO launches) when it has fully been implemented. The Army will eventually field a total of six M3P systems to replace JTAGS.

tion and the 1st Space Brigade have taken the initiative to task organize and re-station the 1st Space Company (Theater Missile Warning) subordinate elements to better support combatant commanders and take care of Soldiers life cycle and deployment hardships. These measures include forward deploying a fourth JTAGS command system into the PACOM area of responsibility (Japan), which will provide the proper density of equipment and personnel and redundancy for that combatant commander. This fourth JTAGS command system will come from Colorado. Additionally, the personnel allocations for A/2 will move from Colorado to EUCOM where the detachment commander can provide the best support and command relationship to the CENTCOM JTAGS site. Lastly, the contingency mission will no longer be necessary and the Bravo Detachment personnel will be task organized under both the Alpha and Charlie Detachment banners in order to maximize training and operational requirements. This will effectively eliminate augmentation and deployment requirements from the CONUS sites. This solution, on the surface appears to counter the thought process behind Department of Defense and the reduction of forces forward and base them in CONUS as Units of Action. Units of Action are designed to have a training base, a deployable platform and are to be prepared to deploy one in three years. But the reality is that the mission for these Soldiers are not OCONUS until they deploy there (Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Sinai, etc.), while JTAGS operators monitor and report Ballistic Missiles 24/7 for combatant commanders today with an indefinite presence forward.

The future of the JTAGS system is designed to provide combatant commanders with a system that is relevant, decisive, and eventually integrated into Limited Defensive Operations (LDO) and Ballistic Missile Defense Systems (BMDS) as an early alerting and queuing system. This provides commanders with a continuous, assured, ballistic missile early warning and queuing system in-theater. It is both an insurance policy and force multiplier by supporting all tenants of global missile defense; attack operations, active defense, passive defense and battle management command, control, communications, computers and intelligence. In-theater missile defense remains viable today and will be for the next 10-15 years. This mission set includes strategic and tacti-

Initial Qualification Training

1st Space Company operates the Initial Qualification Training at Fort Bliss, Texas internally and provides trained JTAGS operators and Sailors to the field utilizing one of the operational shelters. Additionally, the Navy sends reservists to the JTAGS IQT and periodically in the summer, they support JTAGS forward units with these Sailors during their annual training. IQT will move underneath the SMDC/ARSTRAT Future Warfare Center and Directorate of Combat Development which performs the Training and Doctrine requirements of this command. This final shelter will be retained by the 1st Space Brigade in a Memorandum of Agreement with the Future Warfare Center in the event of a catastrophic loss of another forward JTAGS command system. This fifth system is operationally available for unforeseen operational requirements. Due to the technical requirements and constant upgrades of JTAGS shelters data and voice architecture and initial training of crews — this system serves a valuable non-doctrinal role in Army theater missile warning that will be overcome with the delivery of the M3P system.

cal ballistic missile warning for centimetric early warning, enhanced IR coverage and support of LDO and BMDS and other strategic classified missions.

In summary, the contingency mission may be reduced or eliminated due to the advent of a fourth system forward, giving each combatant commander or possible combined joint task force commander coverage with a primary and backup system available to cover all areas of interest in theaters with the potential to launch ballistic missile attacks. The areas that will not be covered have little or no possibility of ballistic missile use and most of these could be covered with existing JTAGS units already in place. This allows two detachment headquarters to provide hemispheric support to all combatant commanders with Alpha Detachment maintaining support in the West and Charlie Detachment providing the same in the East.

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